

and are willing to control the rest—the daily papers, the spell-binders, the census and the magazines—that's why you see so many "captains of industry" articles—in short, we feed the public just what we want it to devour. These flowers we speak of won't be quickly modified. There's not been a new cereal evolved since the building of the pyramid of Cheops. Ponder on that, boy, and shut the door as you go out.

Exit Frank.
(Calling after him) I say! and don't forget, my son, whenever any crisis becomes unbearable, we can always bury the issue in an investigation.

End of Act I.

MELVIN L. SEVERY.

DEBT-COLLECTING IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

SUGGESTED BY SOME RECENT EVENTS IN VENEZUELA.

There were some gallant creditors,
Within topgallant ships;
They bucked against a little fort,
Constructed out of chips;
And, keeping bravely out of range,
To get that debt or die,
With cheeks that knew no pallid change,
Did dauntlessly let fly.
They banged away with shrapnel, and
They banged away with shell,
With solid shot, to beat the band,
They gave that fortress—well!
They also freely gave the same
To everything in sight,
And, firing with impartial aim,
Set all the towns alight;
And thus, until the set of sun,
Before that fort they lay,
And, volleying from every gun,
Bombarded through the day.
At sunrise on the morrow morn,
They started once again,
Directly with the dimmest dawn,
To rain the iron rain;
And, shooting high, and low, and wide,
Before the day was spent,
The deaths upon that country side
Were forty-nine per cent.
The third day came; the boats were
manned;
With cutlass, pike, and gun,
The swift marines were landed, and—
Retired—upon the run;
But, still unfrighted, dauntless still,
Beneath the tropic skies,
Did debt-collecting cannons fill
The welkin with surprise.
And still unfrighted, dauntless still,
Most ruthlessly did roar,
Bombarding like a crater, till
The darkness came once more.
I'm really very sorry—but,
About the fourth day's fight,
This history's mouth continues shut
Astonishingly tight.
Perhaps the fort was blown in air?
Perhaps they sallied away;
Perhaps they'll go bombarding there,
Until the judgment day.
—Bertrand Shadwell, in The New Age, of
London.

BOOKS

ROMAN HISTORY ONCE MORE.

Granrud's Roman Constitutional History (Allyn and Bacon, Boston) is primarily intended, as the preface tells us, to provide collateral reading, and to supplement the ordinary school histories of Rome. As a convenient hand-book it will doubtless be found serviceable to the general reader who may wish to get a brief connected view of the constitutional history of the so-called Roman Republic.

As to the quality of the book, it must be said that it is a fair representative of many text-books which are being published on historical subjects. The authors may be learned, but they lack one or both of two requisites for producing works of real literary value. First, they have little or no individuality of style, without which no book can be interesting. They write correctly; they offend no rule of grammar or rhetoric; but there is no idiom, no freeness, no life. The inoffensive sentences sound almost as if they were set for exercises in a "Prose Composition." It really seems that the moment a man starts out to write a book that may be used by young students, he is under bonds to be formal to the danger point of dullness.

Secondly, there are many learned authors, possessing great knowledge of detail, who show a lack of any firm grasp of the larger principles back of policies and events. This lack of a consistent view of the whole sometimes leads to incongruity of statement. In this book, for example, on p. 255 the author says, "Caesar's policy was to avoid civil war, if possible, and to obtain the consulship for 48"; whereas a few paragraphs farther, p. 257, he says, "Caesar, who desired war, privately offered to surrender the Gallic provinces on March 1, '49, provided he might retain at least Illyricum with one legion until he should enter on, or perhaps merely be elected to, the consulship of 48."

The author does not seem to us to have got at the heart of the political movements near the end of the republic. He does not seem to see the inevitableness of Caesar's course, by which alone could any liberty be preserved for the masses of the Roman people. Caesar did at least love justice; and he earnestly desired to carry out measures that would make life better for a people who were becoming more and more degraded by poverty and corruption. The miserable oligarchy which he supplanted, certainly a large majority of them, desired nothing but to reinforce their own greed and luxury. When we consider this preceding century of

constant degradation, wherein Rome reaped the rotten harvest of her long wars and of her system of land monopoly, it is quite absurd to talk about "liberty dying with the republic."

The author makes one very true remark about Caesar, that he "showed the greatest weakness in selecting his subordinates." The great statesman's mistake came from his big heart, from his disposition to think well of people, and from his honest desire for the reconciliation of "a house divided against itself."

J. H. DILLARD.

JOHN SWINTON.

The story of this picturesque man, journalist and labor agitator, is told with friendly appreciation but judicially by Robert Waters in a little paper covered volume which is published by Kerr, of Chicago.

Mr. Waters thinks Swinton made a mistake as a labor agitator in addressing himself exclusively to the working class, saying that if he could have touched the hearts of the well-to-do and "awakened their sense of duty, he might have accomplished much." The criticism is probably just. Mazzini discovered long ago that appeals to individuals and classes to defend their own rights have little of the force and none of the permanent influence of appeals to duty with reference to the rights of others. The man who fights for his own rights may be pacified with a new pair of boots, as was Mazzini's revolutionist; but the man who from a sense of duty fights for the rights of others is not cheaply beguiled. Swinton himself was a man of the latter kind.

But it must be confessed that, like many others of his kind, his influence was less than it might have been, because he depended for support ex-

Clubs of Three

To extend the circulation of The Public among new readers, and at the same time to relieve of expense such regular readers, or others, as take the trouble to procure us new subscriptions, we will supply three subscriptions for the price of two, on the following terms:

- A Club of Three Annual Subscriptions (at least two of them new).....\$4.00
- A Club of Three Semi-Annual Subscriptions (at least two of them new).....\$3.00
- A Club of Three Quarterly Subscriptions (at least two of them new).....\$1.00

Any person soliciting new subscribers will be allowed the same terms. For every two new subscriptions for which he forwards us cash at regular rates we will honor his order for a third subscription free.

Make all Checks, Money Orders, etc., payable to
THE PUBLIC PUBLISHING CO.,
Box 687, CHICAGO, ILL.



"LOOK HERE UPON THIS PICTURE—AND ON THIS."
A couple of Specimen Pages of Our Civilization.

U. S.—There must be some fundamental wrong back of all this to account for it. What the devil can it be?

clusively upon the classes he fought for. Yet those who knew John Swinton realized that he couldn't help it. He was John Swinton, and not somebody else. What John Swinton prompted him to do he did. This is the characteristic that distinguished him.

John Swinton's life, as Mr. Waters tells it, is a story to be thought of as well as enjoyed. It is the record of an English boy who came to the United States in the '30's, and as printer, journalist, publisher and orator participated in that irrepressible American conflict of ideas which began with the anti-slavery agitation and extended over into the labor struggle. With personal color it presents some aspects of an historic epoch.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

—"Toward the Light; Elementary Studies in Ethics and Economics" (London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., Lim., Paternoster Square) by Lewis H. Behrens, co-author of "Some Unrecognized Laws of Nature," "The Story of My Dictatorship," "Government by the People," etc. To be reviewed.

LITERARY NOTES.

A. S. B. in the Woman's Journal of Boston (Feb. 14) replies very cleverly, but withal a little testily, to Mr. Finck's attack upon coeducation, which appeared in the Independent several weeks ago. The article in the Journal calls attention incidentally to President Eliot's statement that 28 per cent. of Harvard graduates never marry, and that the married graduates have on an average only two children.—J. H. D.

In the Nineteenth Century for February Hon. Maud Pauncefote has a readable article on "Washington, D. C." "The scale of life in Washington has increased," she writes, "during the last decade and almost doubled. . . . Parties are no longer simple affairs. Nowadays, dinners are superb,

French chefs, good wines, etc., are no longer the exception." She writes in a pleasant vein throughout, and has evidently taken away agreeable impressions of her life in Washington.—J. H. D.

The leading editorial in the Independent of March 5 asks the question, Are we a shallow people? The writer makes the surprising statement that "There is practically no sale in America for really serious books by American authors, however important the subject matter and however well written they may be. The best informed publishers in this city assure us that, instead of increasing, the demand for such works is noticeably less than it was ten years ago and very much less than it was twenty-five years ago." Of one fact, in keeping with the editor's thought, we believe there can be little doubt, that in American colleges there is a very decided decline in the tone of earnestness. Sport, clubs, and associations of numberless variety, have increased amazingly, bringing whatever of good may be attached to such activities; but we believe the percentage of really earnest students has become smaller within the past ten years. If the actual number of such students is not less, they certainly count for less in giving tone to college life.—J. H. D.

HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

By C. L. JAMES.

An accurate narrative of that interesting period of French history, written by an able historian from an entirely new standpoint. No student of Sociology can miss this careful analysis of the conditions of that time.

Justice, Single Tax journal of Wilmington, Del., says of it: "It is concise; it is accurate; and above all, it deals with essentials; the author has entered into the spirit of the Revolution."

Price, \$1.00 postpaid. Order from
ABE ISAAK, Jr.,

331 Walnut Street, Chicago, Ill.

Progressive Religious Literature free. Apply Mrs. C. F. Wetmore, 4432 Sidney Avenue, Chicago.

The Public

Is a weekly review which prints in concise and plain terms, with lucid explanations and without editorial bias, all the news of the world of historical value. It reads the daily papers and tells its readers what they say. It is also an editorial paper. Though it abstains from mingling editorial opinions with its news accounts, it has opinions of a pronounced character, based upon the principles of radical democracy, which, in the columns reserved for editorial comment, it expresses fully and freely, without favor or prejudice, without fear of consequences, and without hope of discreditable reward. Yet it makes no pretensions to infallibility, either in opinions or in statements of fact; it simply aspires to a deserved reputation for intelligence and honesty in both. Besides its editorial, and news features, the paper contains a department of original and selected miscellany, in which appear articles and extracts upon various subjects, verse as well as prose, chosen alike for their literary merit and their wholesome human interest. Familiarity with THE PUBLIC will commend it as a paper that is not only worth reading, but also worth filing.

TERMS.

Annual Subscription	\$2.00
Semi-Annual Subscription	1.00
Quarterly Subscription50
Trial Subscription (4 weeks)10
Single Copies05

Free of postage in United States, Canada and Mexico. Elsewhere, postage extra, at the rate of one cent per week.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

THE PUBLIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
1641 UNITY BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILL.

All checks, drafts, post office money orders and express money orders should be made payable to the order of THE PUBLIC PUBLISHING CO.

Payment of subscription is acknowledged up to and including the first issue of the month printed on the wrapper. The figures following the month, refer to the year in which the subscription expires.

Subscribers wishing to change address must give the old address as well as the new one.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:
THE PUBLIC, BOX 687, CHICAGO, ILL.

ATTORNEYS.

Chicago.

CHARLES H. ROBERTS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
ESTATES, CLAIMS, PATENTS,
618 Roanoke Building, Chicago.

Houston.

EWING & RING,
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS,
HOUSTON, TEXAS.
Presley K. Ewing. Henry F. Ring.

New York.

FRED. CYRUS LEUBUSCHER,
COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
BENNETT BLDG.
99 Nassau St., Borough of Manhattan,
Tel. Call, 4094 Cortlandt. Rooms 1011-1012
NEW YORK.

Sombart's Socialism

THE PUBLIC says editorially that it is the most intelligent and intelligible presentation of the development and character of the socialist movement. It is a beautifully printed book of 216 pages, substantially bound in cloth. It sells for \$1.00 at the bookstores. You can get it free by sending \$1.00 for a year's subscription to the International Socialist Review, mentioning THE PUBLIC and asking for 80¢. BART'S "SOCIALISM" as a premium. Address: CHA. ELIAS M. KERR & COMPANY, 56 Fifth Avenue, Chicago.